

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-
CPYRGHTCUBA EXECUTES 5
IN INVASION PLOT

Briton Is Among 63 Jailed

C. I. A. Role Charged

HAVANA, Sept. 23 (AP)—

Five Cubans charged with having worked for United States intelligence in the ill-fated rebel invasion last April were executed today by a firing squad.

A revolutionary court sentenced sixty-three other persons, including seven women, to prison terms ranging from nine to thirty years. The prosecution asserted that this has been recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency to sabotage the regime of Premier Fidel Castro.

Among those sentenced was Robert M. Geddes, a 29-year-old British subject, who is general manager for a Mexican-owned concern that holds a Pepsi-Cola bottling franchise. He was given a thirty-year prison sentence.

Mr. Geddes, who was born in Peru of British parents, denied charges that he had acted as a link between the C. I. A. and counter-revolutionary groups in Cuba. He said he sympathized with the Cuban people and with Cuban institutions now ruling Cuba, and said he never mixed in politics.

(In Boca Raton, Fla., his wife, Marjorie, burst into tears at the news of his sentence and was unable to talk to newsmen. Earlier, she had sent a message to Premier Castro that said: "I am sure my husband's only crime is being married to an American citizen. I offer myself in exchange for him."

The five men executed at La

Cabana Fortress before dawn were Pedro Sergio Cuellar, Alonso Jorge Rojas Castellanos, Angel Posadas Gutierrez, Braulio Contreras Maso and Manuel Blanco Navarro.

Their deaths brought to twenty the total executed since Sept. 9 and raised to 621 the unofficial count of publicized executions since Premier Castro started his rule in 1959.

Among the women convicted was Senor Posadas Gutierrez's wife, who is seven months pregnant. At the start of the one-day trial yesterday the two met briefly in the courtroom and embraced.

Thirteen men besides Mr. Geddes received thirty-year terms. One, Rafael Garcia Rubio, 20, said he had enlisted in Miami at an anti-Castro recruiting center and was trained in Panama and Guatemala as a saboteur. But he said that after he had been brought to Cuba he refused to commit any sabotage.

Forty defendants got twenty-year terms and nine were sentenced to nine-year terms. One man was absolved.

The British Ambassador, Herbert Stanley, attended the trial with about 200 other spectators.

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